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News Release

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Second of 2 sentenced for distributing marijuana

A 31-year-old Apple Valley man was sentenced yesterday for his participation in a conspiracy to distribute more than 50 kilograms of marijuana in Minnesota.

On Aug. 19 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank sentenced Jose Alexander Sprague to 18 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy. Sprague and co-defendant Bradley Curtice Fettig, 28, Minneapolis, were charged on Dec. 11, 2008, and both pleaded guilty on Dec. 22. Fettig was sentenced on June 3 to 36 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy.

According to their respective plea agreements, beginning in June 2008 the defendants worked together to purchase and resell large quantities of marijuana. From June to August 2008, Sprague made six separate trips to Oregon to purchase marijuana, and from August through November 2008, their unnamed supplier made four separate trips from Oregon to Minnesota to deliver marijuana.

Both defendants admitted they conspired to distribute between 80-100 kilograms of marijuana.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, authorities learned about the operation in November 2008 and arranged for a controlled purchase of 68 pounds of marijuana on Nov. 22 at a Burnsville motel. Officers observed both defendants leave Sprague's residence in separate vehicles and later arrive at the motel. Both were arrested.

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA, the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport Police Department and the Dakota County Drug Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey M. Bryan.